

Contents

News

- The New Saint Joseph's College?
- Faculty Appreciation
- Renovations at Robinson Memorial Library

Opinions

- The Weather
- An Age of Fear
- Don't Take Machines for Granted

Features

- *Beauty and the Beast*
- *Nintendo Switch*
- *Look Homeward, Angel*
- *Divide*

Sports

- Softball
- Baseball
- Track and Field
- Athlete Spotlights

Back Page

- ## Creative Corner

By Lauren Grasham
News Writer

What will the future for Saint Joseph's College hold? Many people have been asking this since it was announced that the school would be closing back in February. There are many rumors surfacing as to what Saint Joe will turn into. Some of them have already been shut down, but a handful of possibilities are still up in the air.

Pumas have been desperately hoping that their school could be saved in one way or another. While staying open for the next school year is almost impossible at this point, there was word of an attempt to keep some programs alive. A plan was proposed that would keep some majors and minors up and running during the suspension. The majors included were business administration, biology, and education, while the minors included the previous three as well as communication. The plan included the core program as well. Unfortunately, this idea was rejected by the Board of Trustees in early March for a couple of reasons. The college sent out a letter after the decision was made stating that "it was deemed not to be financially feasible nor academically rigorous." It was needless to say hearts of many fellow Pumas broke upon hearing the news.

Despite the unfortunate fall-out, there are other plans in store for the school. One of the most recent possibilities is to turn Saint Joe into a sustainable energy institute. Administrators are currently working with Allan Baer, the president of SolarQuest. SolarQuest is a low profit limited liability company. Baer is hoping



Above: Saint Joseph's College. Photo Courtesy of Google Images

that he can take the college and turn it into the main station for his Renewable Nations Institute.

Under SolarQuest, Baer hopes to turn his dreams and goals into reality. In order to accomplish this, 1,000 students from 81 low and middle income countries would be taught about the United Nation's view of global sustainable development. The UN's "Sustainability for All" motto would be used as the core for the learning. The end result is for everyone around the world to have access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030.

So what exactly would this program look like? At this point, many areas are still unclear, but Baer was able to give his ideas in a simple summary. Certificates could be offered in programs involving sustainable energy

development and public policy. These programs are most likely going to be four year programs, since there are no plans to get rid of the academic program that Saint Joe currently has. The master's program of business administration would be kept as well.

However, nothing is set in stone yet, as this is still something that is being discussed between Baer and officials from the college. If the plan does go through, Saint Joseph's College would not change its name, but rather the types of programs that they offer. Robert Pastoor, the President of Saint Joe, is supportive of this idea as well. "The partnership is attractive because it fits the Catholic mission of the institution and it enables the College to remain open while we reengineer for

the future," Pastoor wrote when discussing the topic.

There are other ideas about what to do with the college, but many of them are simply rumors. It has been said that SJC could become a place for veterans and soldiers to recover from mental stress while at battle and receive an education. This idea has also been stated to help pull SJC out of its financial debt and possibly reopen for the 2018-2019 school year. Regardless of what will happen, Saint Joseph's College may not entirely disappear. The name may change or what happens on campus may change, but it won't stray far from its original beliefs and values. Saint Joe will always live on, and nothing will be able to change that.

Faculty Appreciation Dinner

By Natalie Dziadosz
News Editor
and Steven Sewell
News Editor

As what could potentially be the last semester at SJC comes to a close, the Puma family is trying to find its next steps. Students and faculty alike are making plans to leave for other colleges or various endeavors. Faculty have been helping everyone transition as smoothly as possible in addition to trying to find a new home for themselves. During a time when students and faculty need to stick together, the National Society of Leadership and Success gave the options for Pumas to come together.

On April 5th at 5 p.m., there was an appreciation dinner for the faculty and students. The Leadership Society is working to give faculty and students something to remember and come together as the Puma family

before the close of the semester.

Before the faculty appreciation dinner, the club allowed students to participate before the event outside the cafeteria. Students had the chance to submit notes and letters to faculty to appreciate not only the help they have received in the midst of this crisis, but also through every year and ever milestone that the faculty has been a part of during their time as an SJC student.

Brooke Major, a graduating Junior and president of the National Society of Leadership and Success explained to The Observer, "This is a dinner we set up and invited all faculty and staff along with students. We get a chance to say thank you to people who have helped us. We will be giving them the letters people have been writing at lunch, a slide show will be on of pictures students have sent in."

In the all-student email that Brooke Major sent out, students had the chance to exchange their



The current eBoard Members of SJC's National Society of Leadership and Success. Photo courtesy of Brooke Major.

regular meal swipe for one for the faculty appreciation event.

This is not the only event brought to campus by the National Society of Leadership and Success. Throughout their two years on campus, they have partnered with Habitat for Humanity for a toiletry drive as well as hosting speaker events open to all students. NSLS is an

organization that allows students to be successful and thrive in their personal growth and leadership as they enter their careers.

This was a great chance for students to say thank you to the people that have kept them going during this difficult time as well as enjoy the limited time the Puma family has together for the remaining weeks in the semester.

Have a comment on one of our articles? Write a letter to the editor! Email responses, rebuttals, and commentaries to Co-Editors-in-Chief, Kylie Hill at khw10051@saintjoe.edu or Alyssa Cook at acw10024@saintjoe.edu to have them published in our next issue!

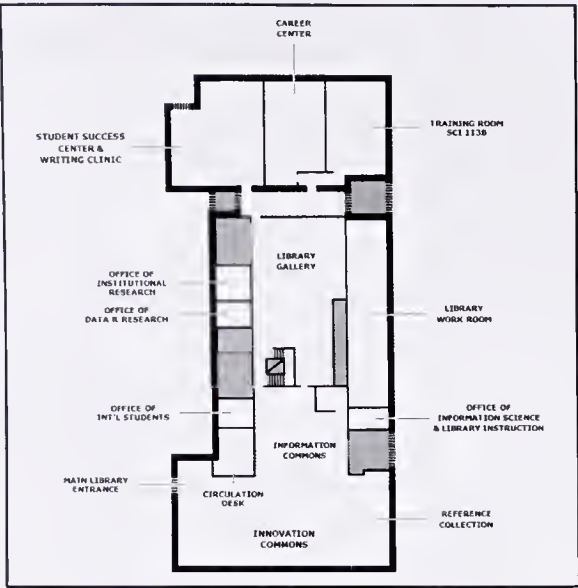
Renovations at Robinson Memorial Library

By Angelica Arizmendi
News Writer

The central problem being addressed by the Robinson Memorial Library, Information Commons, and Innovation Commons was best described by Albert Einstein. “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking that we used when we created them.” The solution was best described by Dr. Chad Pulver, “Innovation can be defined as the deliberate application of information, imagination, and initiative to

derive greater or different values from resources, and includes all processes by which new ideas are generated and converted into useful products (including academic work products) or services (including community service and service learning).” Over the last 22 months, the Robinson Memorial Library has undergone some changes to better serve the students and faculty at Saint Joseph’s College. These changes were made in the efforts to create a more spacious environment for both students and faculty as well as to advance

the technology usage, forms and formats for academic work products. Tim Salm, the director of the Robinson Memorial Library and library staff applied for two different grants that allowed for them to make these technological changes. Tim Salm explains the differences between the Commons and the reason for writing up the two grants. He says, “traditional academic libraries were about books. When the Information Commons became its own thing, the computers have online databases that everyone can



The current floor plan of the Robinson Memorial Library
Photo Courtesy: Tim Salm

(Below): The previous layout of the Robinson Memorial Library in 2015.
Photo Courtesy: Tim Salm



(Below): Changes and renovations that have taken place in the Robinson Memorial Library make it a more inviting atmosphere for students. (2017)
Photo Courtesy: Tim Salm



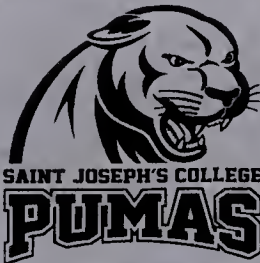
access. But within the last years the Innovation Commons became important because you have to get your hands on the digital tools. And so, we wrote two grants and were awarded two grants so that we could deliver digital literacy to the students and faculty.” With the awarded grants, the library was able to provide various digital workshops as well as get an interactive whiteboard for the training room. Additionally, the new study carrels that are placed across from the circulation desk would have had a variety of technology for students to use which included, large format banners, videos to 3D designs. There was also a change in the physical library set-up earlier this year. These changes were made to create more space for students to work at. The pictures below show how crowded the library looked before whereas now it is more spacious and creates a more inviting and welcoming atmosphere for students to work at. Overall the feedback has been very positive. Students and faculty love the new library set-up as well as the workshops that have been offered as a result of

the grants. The library is a center part of Saint Joseph’s College. It is a second home to studying students, thousands of books, the Student Success Center, and the TV Studio. With its new renovations, the library can provide students a better atmosphere to study and work more comfortably. While the current renovations were only part of the library updates, the technological advances that were set to take place will not happen due to the school closure. However, the library staff has worked hard over the past couple of months and their work should not go unnoticed. A special thanks goes out to everyone who helped make this transformation happen. Thank you to: Robert Pastoor, Chad Pulver, Steve Kochell, Tom Ryan Jr., Carla Luzadder, Mozdeh Khodarahmi, Nancye Leibe, Disha Roddy, Deon Isaac, Jose Arteaga, Kylie Hill, Karen Gramajo, Hiruteslasie Negassi, Muzit Berhe, Alexis Johnson, Miguel Arteaga, Nicole Walsh and Elri Liebenberg.

Upcoming Puma Events!

- April 6, 7, 8 - Columbian Players to present “Guys and Dolls
- April 15 - Stafford/Perkins exit interviews
- May 5 - Balances from the March 31 statement must be paid in full by 3:00 pm CDT
- May 6 - All students living in residential housing need to complete the check-out/move out process by 6:00 pm CDT
- April 22 - Little 500
- May 6 - Commencement Ceremony

Want to get the word out about your event?
Email the date and name of your event to
Casey Snow at
csnow@saintjoe.edu or
Steven Sewell at
ssewell@saintjoe.edu!



The Weather

By Cameron Adams
Opinions Writer

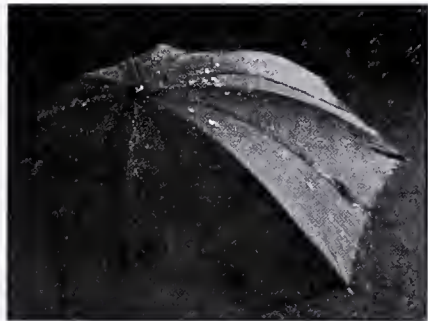
If you’ve been paying attention at all for the past week, you’ll have noticed that the sky was cloudy and it was raining off and on. Most people may not have liked it and I will admit that I was sort of annoyed at certain aspects of it. It was kind of cold a couple days because of the wind. The puddles all over the place were one thing that was particularly annoying, and I hate wearing wet clothes. Even with all of those annoying factors, I mostly liked last week’s weather.

First of all, I really like the way that the air smells right after the rain. It’s like really clean and fresh. It’s almost indescribable. I go out and walk around campus after the rain, and I instantly feel better. The fresh air seems to give off a sense of peace and tranquility that is hard to get at other times. A walk in that fresh air is one of the best things that you can do in a time like this, because to me at least, it’s as if that air cleanses my nerves. On those walks, all of the pressures and the questions about the future and everything just go away.

Another reason I liked last week’s weather is because of the wind and what it does to the trees. When the wind blows enough, it makes the trees sway. It’s even better at night because it makes the shadows of the trees start to sway also. They move back and forth to the sounds of the wind going through the branches and the rustling of their leaves. It’s like they’re dancing to a song that I can’t hear. Everyone should go on walks because of how relaxing they can be.

I also liked last week’s weather because of the temperature. The 40- to 50-degree weather was perfect. It was cool but not cold. You could go out wearing a sweatshirt or a sweater and be comfortable. With all of the back-and-forth, high-and-low temperatures that we’ve been getting for awhile, it was nice to have a steady, cool temperature that was easy to be comfortable in.

All in all, it is my opinion that the weather last week was soothing, and I hope that we can have more weather like it.



Left: Rainy days at SJC.
Photo courtesy of
Google Images.

An Age of Fear

By Brianna Velasco
Opinions Writer

When did wrinkles and gray hair become the end of the world? People today — especially in the United States — flee from even the idea of aging. Advertisers sell products based on their use in keeping skin clear or making hair look beautiful and “young.” Why do we fear aging so much and act as though our bodies have betrayed us if we start to see the effects of age? And what makes an old, white-headed man or woman less beautiful than a young brunette? This over-emphasis on remaining young as long as possible makes people so afraid of getting older that they are unable to enjoy the family and friends and experiences they have. Not only that, but we then cease to give them the respect that they deserve from their life occurrences.

There are still many places today where age is a sign of dignity; the older a person is, the more respected he or she is in that society. And isn’t this how it should be? People who have had the opportunity to grow old have seen and felt and done so much more than those much younger. We should appreciate the advice they give and admire the fact that they have come so far

through life. But instead of giving them our esteem, we tell them about a new product that makes their hair darker, or suggest an anti-wrinkle cream, or even go so far as to recommend a good place for a face-lift.

Now, I am not over-looking the fact that losing eyesight and hearing and having trouble walking or getting out of a chair is not exactly a fun experience. Of course aging is difficult and can be unpleasant. It is, though, a natural part of life. We can’t change that, no matter how hard scientists may try. And even if they were to succeed in stopping the aging process completely, I’m not necessarily convinced that it would be a success. What good is there in stopping life at a certain point and never experiencing it in a different way? Because as we age, we learn to look at things differently from another perspective. Our minds change with our bodies. And I think that’s an important part of growing as humans. If we continue to have this notion that aging is taboo, we will spend a good majority of our lives fearing its coming or lamenting its arrival. Where do we expect to go as people and as society if that’s the case? If you ask me, it doesn’t get us anywhere.

Observer Staff

• • • • •

● Editors-in-Chief
Alyssa Cook
Kylie Hill

● News Editors
Steven Sewell
Casey Snow

● Opinion Editor
Christina O’Connell

● Features Editors
Jimmy Kile
Vivian Myers

● Sports Editors
Brianna Szymczak
Hannah Wallace

● Back Page Editor
Meghan Hennessey

● Contributors
Cameron Adams
Angelica Arizmendi
Bronte Eather
Karen Gramajo
Lauren Grasham
Justin Hays
Kylie Hill
Wesley Hutson
Christine Manika
Danata Paulino
Gabrielle Pepple
Steven Sewell
Casey Snow
Brianna Velasco
Hannah Wallace

● Faculty Facilitator
Dr. Charles M. Kerlin

Don’t Take Machines for Granted

By Karen Gramajo
Opinions Writer

I love science fiction and the wonder it brings when machines and humans are entwined together. However, the question that tugs on me is when artificial intelligence forms a conscience, will they demand equal rights? It seems possible that A.I.’s won’t have the capacity to think as well as the human brain can, but if they do... will they demand rights? I looked up the word “individual” in the dictionary of the world-wide web. It gave different definitions like “singular”, “unit”, and “distinct and indivisible entity”. A singled-out entity from the group. A sole singular unit. I also noticed the term “human” in the definition. A “single human being, distinguished by the group.” I wondered if in the next couple of years, the definition of the word “individual” will change. The same goes with “person”, “man”, “woman”, “child”, “being”, and “human”. What is human? I looked that up too. The word is an adjective and it’s “pertaining to, characteristics of, or having the nature of people.” Or “consisting of people”. Or “relating to the social aspect of

people.” Then, this brings me to question this, what about artificial intelligence? What makes them human?

Artificial Intelligence is the theory and development of computer systems’ ability to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages. A.I.’s are all around us. Siri, Cortana, Cleverbot, Watson, etc. We mess with them. We test their intelligence. We laugh at their primitive responses (Even Watson, when he can’t “joke” with humans yet). Are there any machines in existence that deserve rights? When will they think and argue with humans? Not yet, but if they do we are not prepared. So, it got me thinking, what makes a human deserve rights? I looked that up too. In Core 9, Dr. Maia Hawthorne presented “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” and its purpose. The purpose of the declaration is to provide Core rights: indivisibility, equality, security, and non-discrimination. The declaration has 30 articles reflecting on the basic rights of humans. What

about machines? What will make them earn rights? Well, they can’t feel pain or pleasure, they can’t feel death when they are dismantled, or be insulted when they have no self-esteem. There is no point. However, if they do “download” human emotion and be aware of the injustice of their surroundings, will that make them human?

I wonder if machines will have the civil rights movement like what happened in the 60’s in the United States. Machines will want to be equal to human beings, but they cannot earn that because of many reasons. People are not ready for artificial intelligence to have a conscience and cry out “rights for the robots!” or they prefer the economic benefits of having machines doing the work for us without pay.

Robots are just tools. They have been a part of man since electricity formed into circuitry. There is no way robots will have rights. It’s strange and dumb. But that was the way slavery was viewed back in the day. Slaves were not considered equal because they were tools for the masters. They also gave an economical benefit since they were not paid. Women were not given rights because it was in their interests for men to do the decisions for them. Animals can be abused because they don’t feel pain and are there for our wants and needs. I guess machines are the same. Let’s abuse the machine with the conscience; they can’t do anything bad to us...



Left: IBM’s
Watson.
Photo courtesy
of Google Images.

We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph’s College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

features

Beauty and the Beast

By Danata Paulino
Features Writer

The pressure has been on since a year ago when Walt Disney Studios announced that they were creating a live action version of *Beauty and the Beast*. The film’s anticipation became even more real when it was announced that Emma Watson was going to play the beloved and strong-willed Belle. For over a year, Disney has been teasing their international audience with sneak peek trailers, photographs, and interviews. There have been many questions in the wake of the wait. Can Emma Watson sing? What songs will be in the movie? Will we learn about her mother? To seek answers to these questions, Disney fans young and old flooded the theatres on opening night to see if the expectations for the live action film met those of its animated original.

The quality of the filming, sets, and computer-enhanced graphics was one of the most stellar points of the film. With photos of the non-live characters being released before the showing of the film, there was some familiarity but with a new twist on the appearances of Lumiere, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Pots. The CGI used to create these characters in addition to creating the Beast’s appearance was phenomenal. The scene that was the highlight of this process was definitely “Be Our Guest”. The castle and rest of the sets easily whisked viewers away to the magical world that they remembered from their youth.

Emma Watson is most known for her role as Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* film franchise. Very similar in traits, it was not much of a surprise to hear she was going to be the intellectual Belle. Already a natural beauty, the only thing that was a mystery was Watson’s voice. At the beginning of the film, it was slightly noticeable

that her voice was being altered in some fashion, whether it be for increased sound or whatnot. But, as the film progressed, it was easy to recognize the voice of the actress and the follow up performances were an enjoyable treat. Watson brought all of the familiar characteristics of Belle to life in a fantastic fashion, in addition to adding the traits she already possessed. Watson was a clear pick for the role and played the part with poise and sass.

The brilliantly blue-eyed actor Dan Stevens already had the looks and charm to be a Disney prince. Stevens (*Downton Abbey*) was presented with the challenge of giving an emotional performance while having the makeup and works to also be Beast. Even though his own looks except for the noteworthy eyes were unseen for the majority of the film, he and Watson together had a fantastic on-screen chemistry that fulfilled the Disney idea of true love. Stevens’ featured song “Evermore” left audiences on the edge of their seats. His vocal and acting performances were undeniably grand leaving the audience with sadness, hope, and joy.

One of the best performances I believe was given by Luke Evans who played the egotistic villain Gaston. The reason this actor’s role shined so brightly was because the audience had mixed emotions for the villain. At first, his acts of pining for Belle’s affections were cute and romantic. But, as the film and character progressed, the fans began to see the dark side to the charismatic man. Evans did an astounding job bringing even more depth and emotion to the character than any animated cartoon is capable of. His voice only added to the amazement with his song “Gaston,” a classic sung with fellow actor Josh

Gad. Gad’s character Lefou was given a different turn in this take on the film. Without spoiling too much, Lefou was still Gaston’s right hand man but has a conscience that might prove a problem to Gaston’s plans. Gad’s performance was funny, exciting, and amusing to watch.

It was no surprise that the cast was going to be filled with great actors and actresses alike. With the film starring big names such as Emma Thompson (Mrs. Potts), Ewan McGregor (Lumiere), Kevin Kline (Maurice), and Ian McKellen (Cogsworth) the idea of a mind blowing performance was promising. McGregor enchanted us with “Be Our Guest” while Thompson was a wonderful, doting mother figure.

The animated film *Beauty and the Beast*, which was released in 1991, is still considered one of Disney’s best. Not only was it the first animated movie to be nominated for an Oscar for Best Film, but it won two for Best Score and Best Song. Speaking of music, many fans were wary about what kind of a musical performance would be given by the actors. More importantly, they were wondering what songs would they see. Alan Menken who has written the music for many Disney classics (*Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Hercules*) was brought on again for the music making of the live action. Having written the original songs and score in addition to the Broadway musical version of the film, the audience was expecting great things from this musician. In this category, the anticipation was highly met with great vocal performances by the cast in addition to a newfound love for the brand new songs in the film. Not only were we impressed by the old songs all over again, but we were instantly captivated by the new songs. The one that has



Above: A promotional poster for Disney’s live action *Beauty and the Beast*.
Photo courtesy of IMDB.com.

received the most praise is the new song “Evermore”. This song is sung by the Beast, played by Dan Stevens, and is delivered with such emotion it leaves you with chills.

There were many gaps in the animated film that brought into question the plot of the movie, somewhat proving to be a distraction. But, with original plot still intact, the writers of the live action film did a great job filling the audience in with explanations of everything that happens. How many years pass after the curse? Who is this prince? What happened to Belle’s mother? One of the best qualities of the film was the way that the writers were able to still share the classic while

adding backstories and answers to the questions that *Beauty and the Beast* fans have had for so many years. Struck with musical awe and magical wonder, this is not a film to miss. The audience can walk away knowing for a fact that this is a tale as old as time and will no doubt remain so for many years to come.

Nintendo Switch

By Wesley Hutson
Features Writer

Well guys, a lot has happened since November when I gave a preliminary review of the Nintendo Switch when there was not very much initial information about it. Since then, the console has been released, so let us take a look at this hybrid console in a little more depth.

With its release on March 3, the Switch has been the fastest-selling console in Nintendo’s history, with it projected to sell two million units worldwide by the end of March. This is the case despite some pre-release reviews reporting simple software bugs and limited hardware problems. The main complication seen by reviewers and consumers was the Bluetooth connectivity to the left Joy-Con controller. Nintendo has released a statement saying that this is due to a “manufacturing

variation” and could be easily be repaired, and has been with foam inserts in the hybrid console to shield the antenna.

The Switch initially has a 32GB of internal storage, which can be expanded to up to 2TB with external drives such as microSD, a microSDHC or a microSDXC card. The Switch is not being bundled with any games, so that the player can choose their own games, as Nintendo has intended. Personally, I think that the bundling should have been done to help justify the \$299.99 price tag, but I understand the reason the company gave to choose our own preferences. I think that in the future bundling will occur once Nintendo has established its new top-selling games.

Among the games released to the Switch is a brand-new *Legend of Zelda* chapter: *Breath of the*

Wild. Unlike other games in the series, *Breath of the Wild* features an open-world concept, with quests that can be completed in any order and at the player’s own pace. Weapons and equipment can be damaged and break, a new feature for the *Zelda* games, as well as multiple purposes of equipment (branches are weapons and torches, shields can be used as sleds, etc.) This game seems to show the most promise among the recent releases, though more information through time can change that opinion.

The majority of reviews have come across as underwhelmed for the Switch. This was mostly due to the small game library. I think that this release has proven that Nintendo was not finished when the sales of the 3DS and the Wii U were surpassed by the PS4 and the Xbox One. One of my predictions has proven true



Above: The Nintendo Switch being removed from its dock to be played on the go. Onscreen is the Switch exclusive game, *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*.
Image courtesy of Google Images.

though: the Switch has been a huge hit among college-aged adults. Could this be because of the nostalgia of playing a brand new *Zelda* game, or could this be because consumers have

something from Nintendo that they have never seen before?

Look Homeward, Angel

By Justin Hays
Features Writer

Early 20th century author Thomas Wolfe was once quoted as saying, “I don’t know yet what I am capable of doing, but, by God, I have genius-I know too well to blush behind it.” Wolfe recognized his capacity for knowledge at a young age and was not afraid to tell the world that he was on his way to greatness. A prodigious scholar whose talents were apparent from a young age, Wolfe attended the University of North Carolina at the ripe young age of 15 years old. Following the completion of his studies, Wolfe embarked on a powerful literary career that was tragically cut short by pneumonia when he died at just 38 years old. All of Wolfe’s writings were autobiographical and centered around his childhood in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. His most famous work, *Look Homeward, Angel*, follows Wolfe’s life from early childhood to the time he graduates from the university.

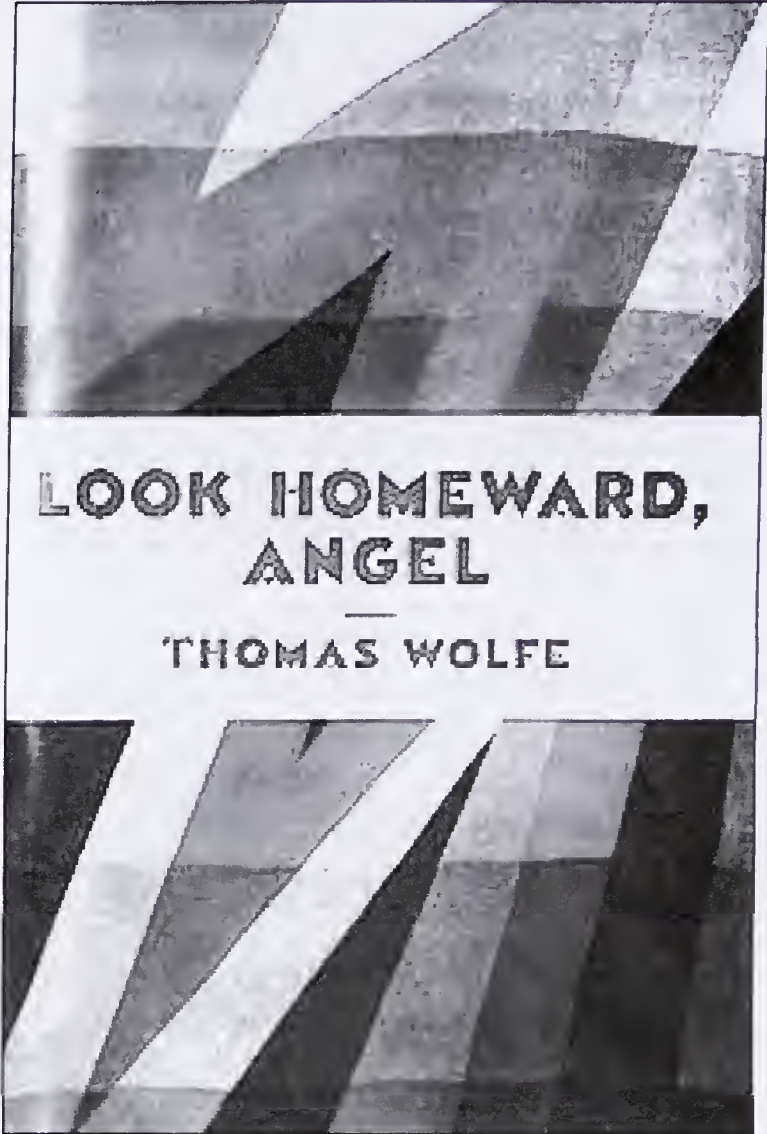
Look Homeward, Angel takes place in the fictional town of Altamont, North Carolina. A mountain town stuck between the Civil War and the impending

First World War The novel begins first with a history of how Wolfe’s father, named Oliver Gant in the novel, makes his way to Altamont after a series of deep misfortunes that include the death of his first wife and the failure of his marble business. These failures cause Oliver Gant to journey up to Altamont where he meets Eliza, his wife and Wolfe’s mother.

Throughout the novel, Wolfe details how the obsessions and weaknesses of his parents shape the lives of the entire family. Oliver’s raging alcoholism and Eliza’s obsession with the accumulation of property create a rocky foundation for the entire family as they grow up through Oliver’s fits of rage and Eliza’s constant attention to wealth. Wolfe, named Eugene Gant in the novel, portrays his relationship to his parents as one full of sympathy and understanding, and he plays a unique role in the family being the youngest and brightest child. Despite their faults, the Gant parents provide stability for their 6 children.

When the story is turned over to Eugene Gant’s perspective, the reader gets insight into the

loneliness Wolfe had growing up, never being truly connected to his family members. Both of the brothers Eugene is closest to in the novel die and none of his other 5 siblings truly took the effort to get to know the youngest child of the family. This separation causes Eugene to live an introverted life and one with few true relationships to others. His outsider perspective shapes the novel and gives him the ability to create deep and meaningful perspectives of the characters in the novel. In his time from childhood to young adulthood, Eugene Gant experiences deep loss, self-induced poverty, and intense love. These major events of Eugene’s young life propel him to thirst for experience and for the chance to express his often suppressed genius.



Above: Book cover for Look Homeward. Angel.
Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Divide

By Bronte Eather
Features Writer

British singer Ed Sheeran released his third album, *Divide*, on the 3rd of March. Only almost a month old, the 16-song album has reached the top of the charts. All 16 songs found themselves in the top 20 British chart. The album showcases Sheeran’s talents with upbeat pop hits and slow ballads.

The album seems more personal than his first two, with songs about his grandparents’ life, and the death of his grandmother. Emotions are definitely felt listening to Sheeran’s voice and his stories. When you learn the inspiration for each of his songs, it adds another layer of emotion to it, and the true message can be heard, and can bring a tear to your eye.

The new album has been playing on a loop on my iPod. There is great variety that can be listened to over and over again. With such different songs, the album lends itself to a variety of listeners. The British singer throws his rap style into a few of songs, and then displays his beautiful voice through the hooks of his songs. Sheeran’s songs “Shape of You” and “Castle on the Hill” have rotations on major pop radio stations and are becoming a staple of people’s music playlists. Both of these songs have an upbeat feel and have a contagious rhythm. The song “Supermarket Flowers” is totally different. The song is slow and full of emotion. The song is about a mother passing away and dealing with losses. The inspiration came

from the passing of Sheeran’s grandmother while he was making the album. At her funeral Sheeran’s grandfather urged him to place the song on the album as it was such a special song to him and the family. Sheeran’s fans are happy that his grandfather pushed for the song, as it has quickly become a crowd favorite.

Ed Sheeran will now take his new album, and some of his older hits, on tour. His tour starts off in Europe, and he will travel around showcasing his songs as a one-man band. Sheeran will reach North American shores at the beginning of August and will go until the beginning of October. Make sure you get tickets to his show, as it will be a special performance for all.



Above: Picture of Ed Sheeran.
Image courtesy of Google



Above: Album cover of Divide.
Image courtesy of Google Images.

Puma Softball's Offense is Coming Out Strong

Kylie Hill
Co-Editor-in-Chief

After having difficulty securing straight wins, the Saint Joseph's College Softball team gained some consistency due to a fierce offense and a tough defense. Home runs and strategy allowed the Pumas to take home wins in the last few weeks.

On March 29, 2017, The Lady Pumas hosted Saint Xavier University (SXU) for an afternoon double header. The Pumas defeated the Cougars in both games, 3-1 in the first and 5-4 in the second. The Pumas stayed strong throughout the first game by keeping the bats moving along side senior Elementary Education major

Ashley Whitaker's excellent pitching performance. The first run for the Pumas was scored off an RBI hit by freshman Exercise Science major Tori Keilman in the second inning. After a standstill, SXU tied the game in the fourth. However, the Pumas came back quickly, scoring two more runs. Whitaker stayed strong for six innings, but freshman Business Administration major Amanda Melzoni closed out the game, holding the Cougars to their single run.

In the second game of the day, the Cougars took the lead early on in the game, 4-1. However, the Pumas came back, scoring three runs in the sixth. Freshman Biology major Morgan Masters executed a perfect sacrifice bunt

that brought in the tying run. After Master's pitching moved the top of the seventh along without a run, the Pumas were helped by two walks in the bottom of the inning. Master's came up to the plate with a walk off single, batting in the last run and earning herself her first win of the season as pitcher.

In another GLVC conference game, Saint Joseph's College traveled to Romeoville, IL to face off against Lewis University in a double header. The day was split with the Pumas winning the first game 6-3 and barely losing the second game 8-7. In the first game, the Pumas' bats were blazing with three home runs hit early in the game. Senior Elementary Education major Briana Wagner and Melzoni hit homers in the third, with Masters hitting one in the fourth.

In the seventh, sophomore Jordan Schneider hit another home run for the Pumas to solidify the score. Masters and Melzoni shared the pitching responsibilities, with Melzoni closing the game by pitching the last two innings.

Despite falling short of the win in the second game, the Pumas kept up their spectacular offense with a two-run homer executed by Melzon in the top of the first. The Flyers quickly reciprocated,



Above: Sophomore Elementary Education major Sara Demuth in mid-pitch at the mound. Photo Courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland

scoring one run of their own in the bottom of the inning, holding the Pumas, and scoring another in the third to tie the game. In the fourth, the Pumas came out ahead once again with Wagner hitting another two run homer for Saint Joseph's College in the fourth. Lewis did not fail to make a comeback, scoring runs of their own to match the Pumas in the fifth. After extra innings, the Flyers inched ahead with a two run homer of their own in the ninth. Despite the loss, it was a fight till the end.

The Lady Pumas faced off against University of Wisconsin-Parkside at home on Sunday, April 2 in another GLVC conference game. They loste both games, 6-4 and 3-2.



Above: Sophomore Biology-Chemistry major Jordan Schneider attempts a bunt. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

Warriors Top Pumas in Midweek Action

By Christine Manika
Sports Writer

After splitting the series over the weekend with the University of Indianapolis Greyhounds on March 24 and 25, the Pumas ended their home stand on Wednesday, March 29, against The Wayne State Warriors. In the midweek double-header, Warriors came out on top of the Pumas 4-2 and 7-6.

During the first game, the Warriors started with an early lead over the Pumas. A fire was lit under the Pumas during the 3rd inning as they scored their first run of the game. Freshmen Joe Kenney and Noah Powell started off with back-to-back singles to get the line moving. Freshman Amir Wright then stepped up to a plate with an

impressive bunt single to load the bases with one out. Senior Marty Napleton then took a walk and brought a Puma home.

Later in the game, the Pumas scored one run and intimidated the Warriors in the bottom of the 7th after Senior Josh Handzik was able to reach on an error. Wright came up and singled a ball into the outfield. This put Puma runners on first and third with no outs. Napleton was able to push across for the Pumas' second run with a sacrifice fly, but the Warriors were able to end the inning to pull out the win.

In the second game, the Warriors took another run in the 2nd inning with a solo homerun following two runs later on to get a lead of 3-0 in the top of the 4th. The Pumas stepped up to



Above: Senior Riley Benner stretches while waiting on the throw to get the out against Wayne State University on Wednesday, March 29 at Rueth-Fitzgibbon Baseball Complex/Gil Hodges Field. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

the challenge and answered with three big runs. Senior Brenden Rivera hit a double followed by Senior Ryan Keck with a walk. Freshmen Jeff Hightower then stepped up to the plate with a huge 3-run homerun to tie the game.

Starting the 5th inning, Senior Riley Benner gave the Pumas their first lead of the day with an RBI single. This lead did not last for long as the Warriors put four on the board during the 6th inning. Like the first game, the Pumas had two men on base in the 7th. Rivera was able to steal 2nd base and then made his way to 3rd after a wild pitch. Hightower brought Rivera home after a RBI double.

Kenney followed with an RBI single bringing in another run, but SJC could not bring another man across.

The Pumas went on a road trip to Kenosha, Wisconsin on April 1 and April 2 for a weekend GLVC series against the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The Pumas split the first day, winning the first game 3-1 and losing the second game 5-2. on April 2, the Pumas fell twice, 5-0 and 6-5.

Next, the Pumas will face off against Bellarmine University at home on April 8-9 in two sets of GLVC double headers. First pitches are at 12pm and 3pm both days.

Upcoming Events

April 7

- Men's Track vs Little Rock in Little Rock, AR
- Women's Track vs Little Rock in Little Rock, AR.
- Men's Tennis vs University of Southern Indiana 2:00pm
- Women's Tennis vs University of Southern Indiana 2:00pm

April 8

- Men's Track vs Little Rock in Little Rock, AR
- Women's Track vs Little Rock in Little Rock, AR.
- Softball vs University of Southern Indiana (DH) 12:00pm
- Baseball vs Bellarmine University (DH) 12:00pm
- Men's Tennis vs University of Illinois Springfield 1:00pm
- Women's Tennis vs University of Illinois Springfield 1:00pm
- Softball vs University of Southern Indiana 2:00pm
- Baseball vs Bellarmine University 3:00pm

April 9

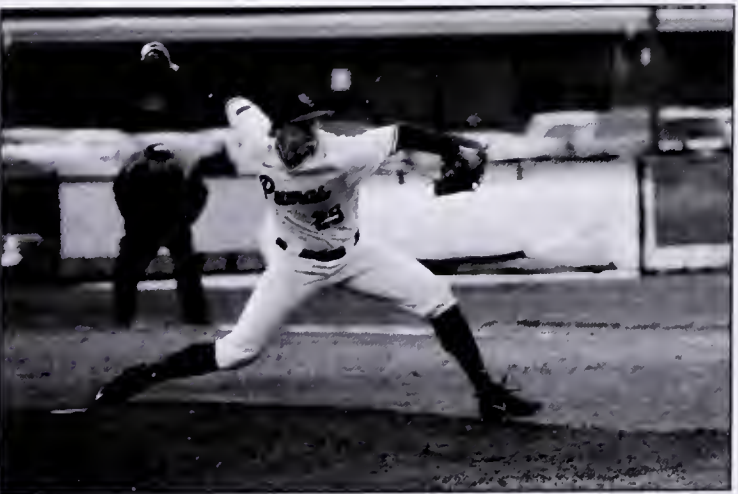
- Men's Golf vs Midwest Regional in Purgatory - Noblesville, IN
- Softball vs Bellarmine University 12:00pm
- Baseball vs Bellarmine University 12:00pm
- Women's Tennis vs University of Chicago in Griffith, IN 12:00pm
- Softball vs Bellarmine University 2:00pm
- Baseball vs Bellarmine University 3:00pm

April 10

- Men's Golf vs Midwest Regional in Purgatory - Noblesville, IN
- Baseball vs Purdue University Northwest 3:00pm

April 11

- Women's Tennis at Chicago State University



Below: Senior Kyle Estrand mid-pitch against Wayne State University on Wednesday, March 29 at Rueth-Fitzgibbon Baseball Complex/Gil Hodges Field. Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland.

Pumas T&F Host One of the Lasts on Their Turf

By Gabrielle Pepple
Guest Writer

April 1, 2017 was both a victorious day filled with personal best marks as well as an emotional one for both the Men's and Women's Track & Field Team as it was their last time competing on their turf during the regular season before hosting Outdoor Conference, scheduled for May 5 and May 6 of this year. Many Pumas could see this nostalgia confirmed with the homecoming of many Track & Field alumni coming back to visit their track one final time.

While only Missouri S&T and Grace College competed against the Pumas, a small amount of schools for a sport that typically sees competition of upwards to eight teams at a time, the Pumas dominated their events in multiple races and field events as a result.

Taking first in multiple areas while maintaining qualifying marks, the Pumas saw a first place finish from freshman, Hannah Dawson, a first timer in the Women's Steeplechase. Additionally, senior, Justin Hays and junior, Brooke Werstler took first in the Men's and Women's

5,000 meter run. Men's and Women's High Jump, saw firsts from junior, Phillip Thompson and junior, Madyson Anthony.

The Pumas took home wins in Women's Discus as well, thanks to senior, Morgan Meyer who, with sophomore Marlaina Boggs additionally took first and second place in the Women's Shot Put. Sophomore, Jelani Regan finished first in both the 100 meter and 200 meter sprints.

The Pumas are on the road this week to face Western Kentucky on Saturday, April 8th.



Pictured. (above) Hirut Negassi, (below) Hannah Conner
Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics



Pictured: Anthony Tucker, Sean Thompson
Photo Courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics



Puma Athlete Spotlight: Lydia Raderstorf

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

Lydia Raderstorf is a junior from Monticello, IN. Raderstorf is majoring in Biology and pole vaults for Puma Track & Field.

1.) How long have you been jumping for track & field?
I started jumping in high school because I had been a gymnast for almost 15 years and a lot of gymnasts are pole vaulters. It kinda goes hand in hand.

2.) What are your goals for this season?
To get a personal record (PR), to do my best, and to have fun.

3.) What is your favorite memory about track & field?
Being able to clear a foot higher than I did last year and have my family and friends there to see it.

4.) What are your hobbies?
I enjoy outdoor activities like fishing and shooting. I also enjoy racquetball and crocheting.

5.) Why did you choose SJC?
It was close to home and I wanted a small campus with a close community.

6.) Who is your role model and why?
I would have to say Sky Raismen is my role model because when she was in the Olympics she had a fall. She was supposed to win, but she didn't. Yet, the next day she ended up doing better than ever so her team could win. She put her own frustrations aside for her team.

7.) What is your favorite song?
At this time that would be "God Your Mama and Me" by Florida Georgia Line and Backstreet Boys.

8.) What are your plans for after graduation?
I will be attending Bradley University to get my doctorate of physical therapy.

Puma Athlete Spotlight: Joe Kenney

By Hannah Wallace
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Saint Joseph's Athletics

Joseph Kenney is a sophomore from Mahomet, IL. Kenney is majoring in Business Administration and plays infield for Puma Baseball.

1.) How long have you been playing baseball?
I was swinging a bat and throwing a ball before I could even walk. I probably started playing because my parents encouraged me to at such a young age and because they both enjoy the sport.

2.) What are your goals for this season?
As a team, we need to run the middle and play like the team we're capable of playing like.

We need to acknowledge our mistakes, learn from them, forget about them and move on. If we can bring the right mindset to every pitch of every inning, we'll be able to make something special happen.

3.) What is your favorite memory of this season so far?
Our baseball spring break trip to Florida.

4.) What are your hobbies?
I enjoy playing xbox with Alex Nisle, golfing, watching *Suits* with Marty Napleton and Noah Powell, and spending time with all of my teammates.

5.) Why did you choose SJC?
Coach O'Dette and the rest of the coaching staff played a huge role in my decision to come to St. Joe's. When I came for my visit, I felt like I had found a place to call my second home. The feeling I got was indescribable.

6.) Who is your role model and why?
My role model is my dad, Tim Kenney. He's always been there to listen and to give me advice. I want to be just like him.

7.) What is your favorite song?
"Moments" by Emerson Drive

8.) What are your plans after SJC?
I am still unsure of what the future holds. I am hopeful that I will be able to find a place where can continue to earn an education and play the game that I fell in love with as a kid. Where that will be, I'm not sure.

the back page

Creative Corner

Intimations of a Henbit Patch

By: Alyssa Cook

Along the highway,
Nestled in with broken glass,
Shimmering Bud Light cans,
And crumpled golden arches,
The rejected flowers grow.
Strengthened by the beating sun,
And the flattened pelts of squirrels,
And bits of machine-crushed ice,
They thrive on the edges of ditches,
Where tires don't tread,
And waters rarely rise.
They're long ignored by gardeners,
Planting perennials elsewhere,
And by ladies
Who adorn their grass-stained garden gloves,
And trim off nature's signets at their stems.
No, the henbit is only plucked
By the curious hands of bright-eyed children,
Stumbling along,
Harvesting common roadside rubbish
And mistaking it for treasure.

But only by small fingers
Is each fuzzy stem snapped,
Only by eyes small
And big enough to shrink
And blink the day to night,
The moon to full,
The dust to magic.
Only when little feet
Shrink to slender pencil-tips
Can a leaf become a carpet,
Soft, cool, flimsy as fancy,
Webbed on every edge,
Veins running through,
A swaying perch for the quiet
Observer, clinging to the stem
At the intersect of wonder and fear.
Only from three mere centimeters
Does the moon outgrow the sun
Illuminating pink and purple plumes above.
See the dark magenta spots in the center?
There is wisdom in those eyes.
And only with arms so candle-wick-thin
Can interlocking fingers hug the stem,
Shimmying up the purple pole,
Prickled by each soft, white hair.
And now at last, the top,
See each petal's shadow pass your face
Brush the bright pink velvet
Of new blossoms,
The leaves just peeking out
Of the untouchable center.
And await the dawn,
So you can await the night
When you're small enough to shrink
And venture to the henbit patch again.



Photograph by Shalom Paulino



Piece by Karen Gramajo



Multimedia piece by Joseph Haberlin photographed by Shalom Paulino